

IN THE CLAIMS:

This following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and all prior listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 16. (canceled)

17. (Withdrawn) A method for treating or preventing a disease selected from the group consisting of fatty liver, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, arteriosclerosis, obesity, diabetes and myocardial infarction of an animal which comprises administering to the animal a protein/phospholipid complex or protein hydrolyzate/phospholipid complex containing 20 - 50 wt% of bound phospholipid, wherein said protein is derived from a plant.

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18. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the cholesterol metabolism of an animal[[,]] which comprises administering to the animal a protein/phospholipid complex or protein hydrolyzate/phospholipid complex, each of said protein/phospholipid complex and said protein hydrolyzate/phospholipid complex containing 20 - 50 wt% of bound phospholipid, said bound phospholipid in each complex being a phospholipid which remains bound to the protein or protein hydrolyzate after being treated with a nonpolar organic solvent, wherein said protein is soybean protein.

19. - 27. (Canceled)

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the phospholipid is lecithin.

29. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the phospholipid is enzyme-modified lecithin obtainable by treating lecithin with phospholipase.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 28, wherein the phospholipid is enzyme-modified lecithin obtainable by treating lecithin with phospholipase.

31. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the animal is human.

32. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 28, wherein the animal is human.

33. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 29, wherein the animal is human.

34. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 30, wherein the animal is human.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the phospholipid is lecithin.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the phospholipid is enzyme-modified lecithin obtainable by treating lecithin with phospholipase.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the animal is human.

39. – 41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method for lowering cholesterol or lipid level of an animal[[,]] which comprises administering to the animal a protein/phospholipid complex or protein hydrolyzate/phospholipid complex, each of said protein/phospholipid complex and said protein hydrolyzate/phospholipid complex containing 20-50 wt% of bound phospholipid, said bound phospholipid in each complex being a phospholipid which remains bound to the protein or protein hydrolyzate after being treated with a nonpolar organic solvent, wherein said protein is soybean protein.

43. (Currently Amended) A method for producing food or feed[.] which comprises adding, to a food or feed material, a protein/phospholipid complex or protein hydrolyzate/phospholipid complex, each of said protein/phospholipid complex and said protein hydrolyzate/phospholipid complex containing 20 - 50 wt% of bound phospholipid, said bound phospholipid in each complex being a phospholipid which remains bound to the protein or protein hydrolyzate after being treated with a nonpolar organic solvent, wherein said protein is soybean protein.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein the phospholipid is lecithin.

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein the phospholipid is enzyme-modified lecithin obtainable by treating lecithin with phospholipase.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein the animal is human.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 43, wherein the phospholipid is lecithin.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 43, wherein the phospholipid is enzyme-modified lecithin obtainable by treating lecithin with phospholipase.